

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

OF THE

Cemetery of Mount Auburn,

TOGETHER WITH

THE REPORTS

OF THE

TREASURER AND SUPERINTENDENT.

JANUARY, 1865.

BOSTON :

1865.

J. H. EASTBURN'S PRESS.

TRUSTEES' REPORT.

THE original character of Mount Auburn was that of an undulating tract of land, covered for two-thirds of its extent with a growth of wood, and diversified in its surface by abrupt hills and overflowed or swampy depressions. At first, attention was mainly paid to improving the more eligible parts of the ground, which were the earliest taken up by purchasers. But as land in the Cemetery became more valuable, it was found profitable, in many instances, to level hills and banks, and with the removed earth to fill up the depressed and boggy portions of the unoccupied space. In this way several acres of central and valuable land have been gradually redeemed and put on sale for cemetery purposes.

The principal operations of this kind, during the last year, have consisted in taking off the crown of Laurel Hill to the depth of about fourteen feet, with the consent of Francis Fisher, Esq., proprietor of the lots situated above. The effect of this improvement is to increase greatly the area at the top of the hill, so that after reserving to Mr. Fisher the amount of land originally occupied by him, a space is obtained for an avenue eighteen feet wide round the summit, with a row of lots exterior to this avenue, symmetrically laid out, all of which have been quickly sold at advanced prices and are now bordered with granite curbs. The gravel removed by this operation has been used in grading the sides of the hill and in filling the neighboring bog on the opposite side of Walnut Avenue and south of Thistle Path. This bog is in process of being reclaimed, and will probably, before next spring, be converted into solid land. The hill-side between this and Anemone Path has been changed into a smooth sodded bank, running parallel to that path for about four hundred feet. Near the bottom of this bank a new carriage-way is constructed called Mound Avenue,

extending from Spruce to Walnut Avenues. Some of the most valuable lots in the Cemetery will be for sale in this new land during the coming season.

A new avenue called Halcyon Avenue has been commenced on the easterly side of what has heretofore been called Garden Pond, and many lots have been sold and finished upon it. By a prospective plan, now in the hands of the lithographer, this avenue is to be continued around a circular water basin called Halcyon Lake. On the banks of this lake will be laid out some of the most eligible lots in Mount Auburn.

A blacksmith's shop, carpenter's shop and tool house, all of which are rendered necessary by the increased work of the establishment, have been put up adjoining the engine house, forming with it a continuous structure. A new side gate for teams has been opened on the east side, opposite the engine house, from considerations of convenience and economy.

The office of Gardener to Mount Auburn having been abolished by the Trustees, the business of cultivation and sale of plants and flowers has been placed in the hands of the Superintendent, without loss to the Cemetery.

The growth and gradual encroachment of forest trees during the last thirty years has been, by excluding the sunlight from the ground, a great and increasing evil. Before the general occupation of the land by individual proprietors, any desired part of these trees could have been removed without expense, the cost of felling being balanced by the sale of the wood. But now, only a few trees can be felled in the common way, on account of the danger of damage to the neighboring works of art. So that in most places trees can only be removed with safety by cutting off and lowering the branches separately with ropes, a slow and expensive process, which the sale of the wood does not repay. Nevertheless the work is being gradually accomplished, and a separate gang of men are continually employed, who, it is expected, will remove a third part of the most objectionable trees during the present winter.

The granite facade furnished by the contractors for a catacomb or receiving tomb, not proving satisfactory, the Trustees have declined to accept it, and the work of that structure still remains unfinished.

In conformity to the vote of the Proprietors, passed at their last annual meeting, the suit against Mr. Jonathan Mann, late Superintendent, has been discontinued, and the money deposited by him as security, has been refunded to him.

During the past year the Corporation have experienced a great loss in the death of Charles P. Curtis, Esq., one of the oldest and most efficient members of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Curtis came into the Board in 1833, two years after its establishment. During a period of more than thirty years he has served the Corporation with great zeal and fidelity, and has brought to its service his extensive practical experience and great legal accomplishment. He was among the foremost in all useful endeavors to carry out the original design, and to promote judicious measures for the preservation, security and embellishment of the Cemetery. The public buildings and enclosures, the historic statuary, the permanent accumulating fund, and the prudently reserved areas of vacant space, all received from him an active and cordial support. His genial and familiar face had become almost identified with the sittings of the Board, and will long be missed by those who had enjoyed the pleasure of his presence and coöperation.

At different times since the incorporation of Mount Auburn Cemetery, the attention of Proprietors has been called by the Trustees to the important subject of the future preservation and perpetual repair of their individual lots. It will be seen by the By-Laws, that this object may be effected in two ways, either by contracting specially, in the manner there provided for the perpetual preservation and repair of a given lot, or by depositing with the Treasurer a certain sum, the interest of which only will be annually appropriated by the Trustees to such repair and preservation. The common prudence which leads a man to attend to the preservation of his worldly goods during life, and to the disposal of them after his death, should lead him to a similar care of the place which is hereafter to contain his remains, and those of his kindred.

Whenever the restricted circumstances of an individual prevent him from making the requisite arrangements during life, he should at least make suitable provision to the same effect by his will. The mode of protecting this part of his estate from dilapidation and decay has already been pointed out. If he desires still further to protect the contents of his lot from disturbance or desecration by those who in future time may, as heirs or assigns, become arbiters of this property, he can best effect this object by placing this part of his property in trust, either with the Trustees of Mount Auburn, or with such other parties as he may prefer, with such conditions as he may see fit to dictate. and they to accept.

Various parties have at times expressed a desire that all the lots in Mount Auburn should be kept in repair at the expense of the Corporation. A moment's consideration will show that such an arrangement would be ruinous and therefore impossible. The lots, after the whole ground shall have been taken up could not by a reasonable computation be kept in suitable order by an outlay of ten or more probably of twenty thousand dollars per annum, an expense which would conduct the institution to insolvency in a short period of time.

By the Treasurer's Report it will be seen that the financial affairs of the Corporation are in a prosperous state. The Permanent Fund amounts to \$43,944.71. The Repair Fund has \$24,276.74, and there remains in cash and invested disposable property a balance of \$32,734.48.

For the Trustees,

JACOB BIGELOW, *President.*

Boston, January, 1865.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of Mount Auburn Cemetery,

GENTLEMEN,—

In accordance with the requirements of the Trustees, I herewith transmit the Annual Report of the Superintendent, for the year ending December 31, 1864, as per account of his department.

Number of Original Interments for the year ending December 31, 1864, has been,	575
" " Removals from other Cemeteries,	134
Total number of Interments for the year,	709
Number of Interments in Public Lots for the year,	84
" " Deposits in the Receiving Tomb for the year,	71
Total number of Interments in the Cemetery to date,	12,882
Number of New Lots graded and bounded with Granite Posts,	70
" " Old Lots improved by being newly Sodded and Graded,	110
" " " bounded with Granite Posts,	53
" " Lots enclosed with Granite,	94
" " Iron Fences erected,	6
" " Tombs built,	4
" " Monuments erected,	32
" " Removals in the Cemetery,	113
" " " from the "	32

All of which is respectfully submitted,

DANIEL L. WINSOR, SUPERINTENDENT.

Mount Auburn, December 31, 1864.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

*The TREASURER Reports the following Abstract of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURES
for the 33d year, 1864.*

He has received from sundry parties:

For Labor and Materials at Cemetery,	-	-	-	-	\$34,938.06
“ Intermerts in the Public Lots,	-	-	-	-	792.00
“ Sales of Lots,	-	-	-	-	30,911.98
“ Deeds,	-	-	-	-	155.00
“ Rent of A. McDonald,	-	-	-	-	37.50
“ “ “ A. A. Barker,	-	-	-	-	100.00
“ Certificates of Indebtedness, sold,	-	-	-	-	2,000.00
“ Income of Investments,	-	-	-	-	2,392.96
Balance, January 1,	-	-	-	-	2,765.29
					<u>\$74,092.79</u>

He has paid as follows:

For Labor and Materials,	-	-	-	-	43,244.45
To sundry parties for Expenses,	-	-	-	-	771.18
For Expenses in Suit vs. Jona. Mann,	-	-	-	-	481.95
To James Derby, Jr., Gate-Keeper,	-	-	-	-	551.55
“ Jona. Mann, for deposit refunded,	-	-	-	-	1,000.00
For U. S. Certificates of Indebtedness, \$3,000,	-	-	-	-	2,985.00
“ Interest accrued on same,	-	-	-	-	9.16
“ “ on Money Borrowed,	-	-	-	-	1.40
To A. J. Coolidge, for Salary and Office Rent,	-	-	-	-	950.00
For Notes of Wm. H. Spooner, Jr., for Green-house, assumed by Corporation, with interest and expenses,	-	-	-	-	1,050.83
To D. L. Winsor, Superintendent,	-	-	-	-	1,141.50
“ Geo. Wm. Bond, Treasurer,	-	-	-	-	800.00
“ Massachusetts Hospital Life Ins. Co., for 1-5 of gross sales,	-	-	-	-	6,461.80
“ Massachusetts Horticultural Society for proportion of sales 1864, and interments in Public Lots, 1863 and 1864,	-	-	-	-	7,719.49
“ \$5,000 U. S. 5-20 Bonds,	-	-	-	-	5,028.10
Remaining in his hands,	-	-	-	-	1,896.38
					<u>74,092.79</u>

He has received for Fund for Repairs:

For new Endowments,	-	-	-	-	3,760.00
“ Notes Receivable,	-	-	-	-	4,800.00
“ 8 Shares Fitchburg Railroad, sold,	-	-	-	-	997.60
“ Income of Investments,	-	-	-	-	1,086.20
Balance, January 1st,	-	-	-	-	475.58
“ due Corporation, January 1st, 1865,	-	-	-	-	654.46
					<u>\$11,773.84</u>

He has paid for said account:

For Stone Work to Lot 313,	-	-	-	-	315.00
“ Care of Lots,	-	-	-	-	570.60
“ Certificates of Indebtedness, \$7,000,	-	-	-	-	6,827.50
“ Interest due on same,	-	-	-	-	6.81
“ \$3,000 5-20 U. S. Bonds,	-	-	-	-	3,031.20
“ Temporary Loan to United States,	-	-	-	-	800.00
“ Geo. Wm. Bond for $\frac{1}{2}$ per ct. on investments for 1863-'64,	-	-	-	-	222.73
					<u>11,773.84</u>

GEO. WM. BOND, Treasurer.

Boston, December 31, 1864.

This certifies that we have examined the books and accounts of the Treasurer of the Proprietors of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn, for the year ending December 31, 1864, and have found them correctly kept and properly balanced, with satisfactory vouchers for all payments charged.

The Certificates of Stocks and other evidences of property were found in accordance with the statements in his accounts.

In the Fund for Repairs there appears to be a balance due him of six hundred and fifty-four 46-100 dollars, and there is due from him in General Account, eighteen hundred and ninety-six 38-100 dollars.

CHARLES C. LITTLE, }
CHAS. G. NAZRO, } Finance Committee.

Boston, January 28, 1865.

The Property of the Corporation consists of:

The Cemetery, which has cost to date,	-	-	-	-	-	\$339,747.01
Statuary,	-	-	-	-	-	15,365.20
Superintendent's House and Lot,	-	-	-	-	-	6,892.91
Stock in Shawmut National Bank, 15 shares,	-	-	-	-	\$1,500.00	
" Atlantic Bank, 20 shares,	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	
" Boston and Lowell Railroad, 5 shares,	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	
" Fitchburg Railroad, 20 shares,	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	
United States 5-20 Bonds, \$15,000,	-	-	-	-	15,028.10	
" " Certificates of Indebtedness,	-	-	-	-	995.00	
Lots 567 and 592,	-	-	-	-	315.00	
Cash,	-	-	-	-	1,896.38	
Notes Receivable, Secured by Mortgage,	-	-	-	-	7,000.00	
						<u>32,734.48</u>

PERMANENT FUND.

Deposited with Massachusetts Hospital Life Ins. Co., for Permanent Fund, per last year's report,

Interest for 1864,	-	-	-	-	35,596.52
Deposited December, 1864,	-	-	-	-	1,886.39
					6,461.80
					<u>\$43,944.71</u>

REPAIR FUND.

Notes Receivable,	-	-	-	-	10,300.00
30 Shares Atlas Bank,	-	-	-	cost	2,970.00
10 " Western Railroad,	-	-	-	"	1,002.50
Temporary Loan to United States,	-	-	-	-	800.00
United States Certificates of Indebtedness, \$7,000,	-	-	cost	6,827.50	
" " 5-20 Bonds, \$3,000,	-	-	"	3,031.20	
					<u>24,931.20</u>

Less due the Corporation,

	-	-	-	-	654.46
					<u>\$24,276.74</u>

All of which is respectfully submitted,

GEO. WM. BOND, Treasurer.